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STRENGTH AND DISPOSITION OF THE HUNGARIAN ARMY, OCTOBER 1943

The Hungarian Army consists of 27 infantry divisions, a mobile corps, eight frontier guard brigades, one mountain division, and one line of communications corps. This description of Hungarian army strength in terms of units is fraught with danger because of the varying size of such units.

The basic large unit of the Hungarian army, the division, varies in strength and organization from that of an under-strength reinforced regiment to that of a full, normal division. The four stages of divisional mobilization are given below.

Division Type A. This is the peacetime framework. It is a light mixed brigade consisting of one infantry regiment, a mixed battalion of artillery, a troop of cavalry, and supporting arms and services. Most of the units are under strength. Its numerical strength is about 3,800 men.

Division Type B. This is a full mixed brigade consisting of the same units as Type A, but all units are brought up to full war strength. The number of men in

this type of division is about 4,900.

Division Type C. This type contains two infantry regiments, two artillery battalions, and corresponding arms and services. Strength is about 9,500 men.

Division Type D. This is the full division of three infantry regiments, three battalions of artillery, and the full divisional complement of supporting units. It contains approximately 14,100 men.

With these definitions in mind, there is presented in Table I an estimated order of battle for the Hungarian Army as of October 1943.

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Table 1. Order of Battle of the Hungarian Army,

October 1943.

Unit	Stage of Mobilization	Location
1st Inf. Div.	Full Division	Budapest
2nd Inf. Div.	Dupl Brig 1/	"
3rd Inf. Div.	L M Brig 2/	"
4th Inf. Div.	Dupl Brig	Szekesfehervar
5th Inf. Div.	Dupl Brig	Gyor
6th Inf. Div.	L M Brig	Komarom
7th Inf. Div.	L M Brig	Sopron
8th Inf. Div.	Dupl Brig	Szombathely
9th Inf. Div.	L M Brig	Nagykanizsa
10th Inf. Div.	L M Brig	Kaposvar
11th Inf. Div.	Dupl Brig	Pecs
12th Inf. Div.	L M Brig	Szekszard
13th Inf. Div.	L M Brig	Kecskemet
14th Inf. Div.	Dupl Brig	Szeged
15th Inf. Div.	Dupl Brig	Kiskunhalas
16th Inf. Div.	Dupl Brig	Szolnok
17th Inf. Div.	Dupl Brig	Debrecen
18th Inf. Div.	Dupl Brig	Bekescaba
19th Inf. Div.	L M Brig	Miskolc
20th Inf. Div.	L M Brig	Eger
21st Inf. Div.	Dupl Brig	Losonc
22nd Inf. Div.	Dupl Brig	Backsa-Baranya area
23rd Inf. Div.	Dupl Brig	" " "
24th Inf. Div.	Dupl Brig	" " "
25th Inf. Div.	Full Div	Transylvania
26th Inf. Div.	Full Div	"
27th Inf. Div.	Full Div	"
1st Mtn. Div.	Dupl Brig	Backsa-Baranya area
1st Mtz. Brig.	L M Brig	Budapest
2nd Mtz. Brig.	L M Brig	Munkacs
1st Cav. Brig.	L M Brig	Nyireshaza
2nd Cav. Brig.	L M Brig	Kecskemet
102nd L of C Brig.	L M Brig	Lwow-Old Polish frontier
105th L of C Brig.	L M Brig	" " " "
108th L of C Brig.	L M Brig	" " " "
118th L of C Brig.	L M Brig	" " " "
121st L of C Brig.	L M Brig	" " " "

Table 1. (Continued)

Unit	Stage of Mobilization	Location
1st Frontier Guard Brig.	L M Brig	Selgotarja
2nd Frontier Guard Brig.	L M Brig	Komarom
3rd Frontier Guard Brig.	L M Brig	Keszthely
4th Frontier Guard Brig.	L M Brig	Unlocated
5th Frontier Guard Brig.	L M Brig	Kiskunhalas
6th Frontier Guard Brig.	L M Brig	Nagyvarad
8th Frontier Guard Brig.	L M Brig	Munkacs
9th Frontier Guard Brig.	L M Brig	Gyergyeszent-miklos

1/ Duplicated Brigade (Type C Division)

2/ Light Mixed Brigade (Type A Division)

From the above table it appears that the significant concentrations of Hungarian strength are in the Transylvanian area annexed from Rumania and the Bacska-Baranya area annexed from Yugoslavia.

Hungarian strength on the Russian front does not exceed 15,000 men. This represents a great reduction from the Hungarian contribution to German strength in Russia in 1941 and 1942. In 1941 the Hungarians had about 40,000 first line troops in Russia who played an important role in the fighting around Nikolaev. In 1942, Hungarian strength in Russia was vastly increased. The Hungarian Second Army, containing the 3rd, 5th, 6th, 7th, 9th, 10th, 12th, 13th, 19th, 20th, and 23rd Infantry Divisions, the 1st and 2nd Motorized Brigades, and the 1st and 2nd Cavalry Brigades occupied a position on the front south of Voronezh. Numerical strength was about 200,000 men. This army suffered a very severe mauling during the Russian winter offensive of 1942-43. The sum of killed, dead from wounds, and prisoners of war is estimated at 100,000, an unusually high proportion of the total number of men involved. Most of the remnants of the Second Army were withdrawn to Hungary in early 1943, leaving five line of communication brigades, who were in the Bryansk-Gomel region in the summer of 1943, then in the Kiev-Zhitomir region in the early fall, and who are now in the Lwow -- old Polish frontier region.

The numerical strength of the Hungarian Army is now approximately 400,000 men. In addition to this, there are approximately 800,000 trained reserves. This is not meant to imply that the Hungarians could raise their army to 1,200,000. On the contrary, economic limitations and problems of equipment would effectively prevent the Hungarians from using more than half their reserves at any one time.